



WINDSOR
UTILITIES
COMMISSION

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



404070

To Mr. W. S. Mullin.....

.....1983 12 01.....


From T. D. Ray.....

FIGHTING ISLAND - LOWER DETROIT RIVER

We have reviewed the documents recently forwarded from the City Clerk on the subject.

As we all know, Fighting Island is downstream a considerable distance from our raw water intakes and therefore any river contamination, either real or imaginary, would be beyond the area of immediate concern to those who use our potable water.

As a matter of general principle, I believe that continued monitoring of all possible sources of contamination of the Great Lakes waterway should be encouraged so that conclusions can be arrived at from facts rather than emotion.


Tom D. Ray, Chief Engineer
Water Division

TDR:Jc

COMMENTS - Fighting Island used as a chemical dump (largely soda ash) for more than a quarter century. That's what covers 1200 acres of the island to such a great depth.

Despite problems, these deposits may or may not have created, there was rarely any concern expressed over all those years of heavy dumping.

Until, that is, a very closely controlled experiment was begun to try and re-generate growth by mixing sludge with those old chemicals.

It was the publicity created by this novel approach that caused people to become aware of Fighting Island and its contents.

Now, despite the very limited experiments with composting sludge that is being applied to a relatively miniscule part of all that soda ash acreage, hysteria is obscuring the facts which are:

1. No previous consideration was ever given to restoring those 1200 desolated acres of chemical deposits
2. The sludge composting experiment is being carefully conducted under Environmental Agency supervision, and wasn't begun until input from communities on both sides of the River was received
3. Complaints arising from misinformation have been carefully checked and there has never proven to be any harmful effects from the composting operation
4. Sludge composting has been carried out in Windsor for years, and now many other cities as well; with the end

Over the years, Fighting Island could be converted from a barren chemical wasteland to a useful and attractive park with the long-existing chemical content neutralized and contained.

5. The alternative to sludge composting in Detroit is more and larger down town incineration. In fact, it was because Windsor and Essex County were on the receiving end of the Detroit sludge incineration fallout that composting on Fighting Island was initially proposed by the City of Windsor delegation
6. No alternatives to composting have been identified as a means of restoring Fighting Island. If the Environmentally controlled composting experiment is stopped, there isn't any known way of removing the chemical deposits that have been allowed to accumulate over the years.

There are many good reasons for people to be concerned over the Environment these days. The efforts to convert a wasteland of soda ash with composted sludge however, that would otherwise have to be disposed of by less desirable methods is not one of them, particularly, so long as the carefully controlled methods are continued. It should also be recognized that the small section of Fighting Island where composting has been applied is now restored to life and growing vegetation for the first time in many years.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LAND RESOURCE PROGRAMS DIVISION

PERMIT

FEB 19 1981

225F Lycopodium Corporation
c/o Mr. T. L. Piper
1101 N. Le Grand
Wyandotte, Michigan 48192

REVISED - EXHIBIT

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Permit No. | 75-10-02 |
| Date Issued | FEB 19 1981 |
| Extension | |
| Expiration | |
| Revised | |

This permit is granted under provisions of:

- ☐ The Inland Lakes and Streams Act, 1972 P.A. 346.
☐ The Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act, 1955 P.A. 247, as amended.

FEB 24 1981

PTE. MOUILLEE S.G.A.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Permitted Activity | Place 1,000,000 cubic yards crushed soil fill in the existing large field sinkholes. |
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|---------------------------|--------|------|-------|-------|---------------------|
| Water Course Affected | County | Town | Range | Sect. | Sub. and Lot Number |
| St. Lawrence, Cassin Lake | Wayne | 00 | 13E | 01 | 00 000 |

Authority granted by this permit is subject to the following limitations:

- Completion of any work on the permitted project confirms the permittees acceptance and agreement to comply with all terms and conditions of this permit.
- The permittee in exercising the authority granted by this permit shall not cause unlawful pollution as defined by Act No. 245 of the Public Acts of 1939, as amended.
- This permit shall be kept at the site of the work and available for inspection at all times during the duration of the project or until its date of expiration.
- All work shall be completed in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted with the application and/or plans and specifications attached hereto.
- No attempt shall be made by the permittee to forbid the full and free use by the public of public waters at or adjacent to the structure or work approved herein.
- It is made a requirement of this permit that the permittee give notice to public utilities in accordance with Act 53 of the Public Acts of 1974, and comply with each of the requirements of that act.
- This permit does not convey property rights in either Real Estate or material, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or invasion of public or private rights, nor does it waive the necessity of seeking federal assent, all local permits or complying with other state statutes.
- This permit does not prejudice or limit the right of a riparian owner or other person to institute proceedings in any circuit court of this state when necessary to protect his rights.
- Permittee shall notify the Land Resource Programs Division, Department of Natural Resources, in writing, within ten days of the completion of the project authorized herein.
- This permit shall not be assigned or transferred without the written approval of the Land Resource Programs Division, Department of Natural Resources.
- Work to be done under authority of this permit is further subject to the following special instructions and specifications:

Filling shall be limited to placement of crushed soils and/or other mineral spoils or materials containing no toxic matter, refuse, garbage, rubbish or sewage.

Materials which are presently contained in the sinkholes shall not be discharged into waters of the State without prior written approval of the Water Quality Control Division, Bureau of Environmental Protection, Department of Natural Resources.

All materials shall be placed in the sinkholes at any time that a direct connection exists between the sinkhole and waters of the Detroit River.

Authority granted by this permit does not waive any jurisdiction of the U. S. Corps of Engineers and is not used for a federal project.

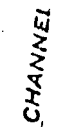
Authority granted by this permit does not waive permit requirements under the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act, 1971 Public Act 347, or the need to acquire applicable permits from the County Drain Commission.

cc: Mr. J. J. P. [unclear]
Mr. J. J. P. [unclear]
Mr. J. J. P. [unclear]

EDWARD A. THAYER
Director, Department of Natural Resources

By _____

EDWARD A. THAYER



APPLICANT: BASE WYANDOTTE CORP., WYANDOTTE MI 48192

PROCESS # 790375C